

NY 65-18766

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mem. FBI
6 Aug. 57

of persons in the United States who are of Byelorussian origin. He stated that the BAA has no formal dramatic group. According to Dr. TUMASH, the BAA has over the past several years produced at very infrequent intervals small plays or shows in commemoration of some Byelorussian holiday or church holy day. Generally, Mr. HIPOLIT POLONIEWICZ, 174 Clinton Street, Manhattan, New York City, has been the leader and more or less the organizer of these dramatic shows. Dr. TUMASH stated that he could not recall when the BAA last put on a show due to the infrequency of these shows. Dr. TUMASH advised that the persons who take part in these shows are members of the BAA, but he could not recall the names of these persons.

On November 29, 1955, Mr. HIPOLIT POLONIEWICZ, 174 Clinton Street, Manhattan, New York City, was interviewed by SA PAUL F. GARRITY and he furnished the following information.

He is a member of the BAA, although he has been very inactive during the past two years. He stated that the BAA has no dramatic group, although on special holidays or church holy days shows have been put on by members of the BAA. He stated that the BAA also has had a chorus, but the chorus, like the dramatic shows, generally originates at a meeting of the BAA with a member making a suggestion that a group be formed to sing or a group be organized to put on a show. Mr. POLONIEWICZ stated that if enough members show an interest in taking part in such an affair, then rehearsals take place and their plans are carried out. Mr. POLONIEWICZ mentioned six persons whom he could recall as having taken part in BAA shows, but none had the subject's name.

Mr. POLONIEWICZ suggested that Mr. KONSTANTY MIERLAK, 118 South 3rd Street, Brooklyn, New York, be interviewed because he is very active in the BAA and would know the members of the BAA who have been active in dramas or in the chorus.

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On December 7, 1955, Mr. KONSTANTY NIERLAK, 118 South 3rd Street, Brooklyn, New York, furnished the following information to SA PAUL F. GARRITY.

He is Chairman of the Manhattan Branch of the BAA. The headquarters of the BAA is located at 33 Norfolk Street, Apartment 2, Manhattan, New York City, and is also used by the Manhattan Branch. Other branches of the BAA in New York are located in Brooklyn and Hempstead, Long Island. The total dues-paying membership in New York is as follows:

Brooklyn Branch	54
Manhattan Branch	43
Hempstead, Long Island Branch	16

TOTAL New York membership 113

Mr. NIERLAK made available for review the names of the 113 members of the BAA in New York, however, none of these names listed were that of the subject or similar to the subject's name.

He stated that the BAA has no organized dramatic group or chorus, although on occasions members who were interested in putting on a show did get together and rehearse for a small dramatic show or form a chorus. According to Mr. NIERLAK, only members of the BAA took part in BAA shows. He stated that outside of the BAA there is only one other organized group of Byelorussians in the United States and that is the Byelorussian American Relief Committee (BARC) which is headed by (Dr.) NICHOLAS SCORS of 37-26 87th Street, Jackson Heights, New York. NIERLAK stated that the membership of the BARC was concentrated in South River, New Jersey and its organization and activities are similar to that of the BAA.

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